

The diamond disappears

Betteredge and Franklin hurried back to the house, and found a good horse to take Franklin to Frizinghall. He rode away at once to take the Moonstone to the bank there.

When Lady Verinder and Miss Rachel came back later that afternoon, they were surprised to hear that their **guest** had arrived early and then left for Frizinghall. Being careful not to say anything about the diamond, Betteredge explained that Franklin had suddenly changed his plans.

Just then, Betteredge's daughter, Penelope, came to talk to him. 'Father,' she said. 'Since Rosanna Spearman returned from the Shivering Sand, she has been **behaving** very strangely. Has she ever met Mr Blake before?'

'No, never,' replied Betteredge.

'Then I think,' said Penelope, 'that Rosanna has fallen in love with Franklin Blake!'

Betteredge laughed loudly. How could a poor housemaid like Rosanna fall in love with a gentleman like Franklin?

But Penelope wasn't laughing. 'Father! You're wicked to make fun of Rosanna,' she said angrily, and left the room.

When the diamond was safely in the bank, Franklin returned from Frizinghall. The ladies were pleased to have him with them that evening. Rachel took special care to get ready for dinner, and after dinner she sang with Franklin while Lady Verinder played the piano. At the end of the evening, Betteredge brought Franklin some **brandy** and water to his room. He could see that Franklin was no longer worried about the diamond.

'Miss Rachel is the most **charming** girl that I have seen since I came back to England!' said Franklin dreamily.

There was still nearly a month until Rachel's birthday party. To pass the time, Franklin gave Rachel the idea of **painting** the door into her **sitting room**, the room next to her bedroom. Franklin

and Rachel started painting flowers, birds, and small animals around the door. While the two of them were busy painting every day, the servants were busy talking about them. Everyone could see that Franklin was in love with Rachel. He had even stopped smoking to please her. But what did Rachel feel for him?

Rachel was indeed a charming young woman. She was small and very pretty, with black hair, dark eyes, and the most beautiful



smile. But Rachel was different from most of the young women of her age, because she was strong and **determined**. She was able to decide things for herself, and did not need to ask other people what to do. She was also very honest, and had never told a lie in her life. But it was impossible to find out who Rachel loved; Rachel did not tell her secrets to anyone, not even her mother.

Another guest who was coming to the party was Rachel's cousin, Godfrey Ablewhite. He was a tall, fine-looking man with long, fair hair. He worked in London as a lawyer, but was also well-known for his **charity** work which helped poor women. He was a good speaker at meetings and people were happy to give him lots of money for charity. In fact, Godfrey was popular with everyone. Rachel had a photograph of him beside her bed.

A few days before the party, the housemaid Rosanna Spearman was behaving very strangely and looked ill. Lady Verinder told Betteredge to send her away for a rest. But Rosanna cried and cried, and refused to leave. Finally, Lady Verinder agreed with Betteredge that it was better to let Rosanna stay on at the house.

It was the 21st of June; the day of Rachel's eighteenth birthday. After he had painted the door all morning with Rachel, Franklin rode off to Frizinghall to fetch the Moonstone. He returned with Godfrey Ablewhite and his two sisters, who had also been invited to the party. They were talking excitedly as they entered the house.

'Have you got the diamond safe?' Betteredge asked Franklin quietly.

'Yes, it's here in my pocket,' replied Franklin.

'Did you see any Indians?' continued Betteredge.

'No,' said Franklin calmly, and he walked across the hall to look for Rachel.

Half an hour later, there were loud cries of excitement from the library. In the middle of the room sat Rachel with **Colonel** Herncastle's diamond in her hand. Franklin had just given it to her, and Godfrey and his sisters were staring at it.

'How wonderful!' the sisters cried.

'Beautiful! Beautiful!' said Godfrey softly.

The diamond was the size of a small bird's egg. A beautiful yellow light shone from the centre of the jewel like bright sunlight.

That afternoon Rachel and Godfrey took a walk in the garden. They had not seen each other for some time, and they walked arm-in-arm, laughing. But when they returned to the house half an hour later, they walked separately, and they were not laughing. Godfrey had asked Rachel to marry him, but Rachel had refused; she had explained to him that she was in love with another man.

Later that evening, Rachel wore the diamond at the dinner party. As the guests came in, they looked at Rachel and her diamond with great excitement and interest. The fact that Rachel had chosen to wear the diamond at the party only made Lady Verinder more worried.

When all the guests had arrived, they took their places at the dinner table. The guest on Rachel's left was Dr Candy, the doctor at Frizinghall.

'I would like to do an **experiment** on your diamond, Rachel,' said Dr Candy. 'If I burn your diamond, it may disappear, and you won't need to worry about keeping it safe!' he laughed.

But the guest who was sitting on Rachel's right was much more serious. Mr Murthwaite was a tall, thin, quiet man. He had travelled all over India for many years, and he knew everything about the country and its people. He did not speak much during

the party, but when he did speak, it was to say something about the diamond.

‘Be very careful, Miss Rachel,’ he said. ‘If you ever go to India, don’t wear that diamond. In a certain Indian city, if the priests see

you with the Moonstone, they will kill you.’

‘Oh, how interesting!’ cried Rachel and the Ablewhite sisters.

But the conversation at the table did not go well. Dr Candy and Franklin started arguing about medicine. Although Franklin had been sleeping badly, he refused to take any medicine. He told Dr Candy that all medicines, and the doctors who gave them, were useless! Franklin spoke loudly in front of the other guests and his words made Dr Candy angry.

Their argument only stopped in the end because there were noises in the garden.

At once all the guests went outside, where they saw three Indians and a small English boy dancing on the grass. Betteredge recognized them immediately as the Indians he had seen the day that Franklin had arrived. The ladies were amused by the strange music and the dancing of the Indians, until Murthwaite spoke to them in their own language. No one understood what he said, but the Indians quickly left the garden and the guests went back into the house.

Murthwaite stopped to talk to Franklin and Betteredge.

‘Those Indians are not dancers. I am sure that they are priests,’ warned Murthwaite. ‘They saw the Moonstone on Miss Rachel’s dress and they will do anything to get it back. Your lives are in great danger!’

‘What shall we do?’ asked Franklin.

‘You must take the diamond to Amsterdam and have it cut into smaller stones. The danger of the Moonstone will end when it is cut up,’ replied Murthwaite.

‘I will talk to Lady Verinder about it first thing in the morning,’ said Franklin.



When all the other guests had gone home, Lady Verinder, Rachel, and the two gentlemen were sitting in the library. Godfrey was drinking brandy and water, but Franklin didn’t have anything. He looked tired, and he was worried about the diamond. Lady Verinder was worried, too.

‘Rachel, where are you going to put the diamond tonight?’ she asked.

‘In the Indian **cabinet** in my sitting-room,’ Rachel replied.

‘But there’s no lock on the cabinet,’ said Lady Verinder.

‘Why are you worried about that?’ asked Rachel. ‘Are there thieves in the house?’



Lady Verinder saw that her daughter was determined, so she said goodnight to everyone and went up to bed. Then Rachel, too, stood up to go. She shook hands politely with Godfrey, but smiled at Franklin before she left the room.

After that the gentlemen went to bed. Franklin was still worried about the diamond, and he asked Betteredge to send some brandy and water to his room to help him sleep. After that, Betteredge made sure that all the doors and windows were safely locked, and finally, he too went to bed.

At eight o'clock the next morning, Penelope took Rachel's morning tea to her room as usual. When she entered the sitting-room, Rachel was already up. She was staring at the Indian cabinet – the diamond was not there.

Penelope ran to Betteredge's room. 'Father, Father!' she cried, 'The diamond has gone!'

Betteredge hurried to Rachel's sitting-room. Rachel was standing next to the empty cabinet, her face white.

'The diamond has gone,' said Rachel quietly. 'Please go away, now. I want to be alone.'

Rachel went into her bedroom, locked the door and refused to talk to anyone. Rachel's **behaviour** surprised everyone in the house. She had never been very interested in expensive jewels, but now she seemed to be deeply **troubled** by the loss of the Moonstone. Lady Verinder was also troubled; a jewel worth over £20,000 had disappeared from her house. Was this her brother's revenge?

READING CHECK

1 What happened on the day of Rachel's birthday? Put these sentences in the correct order and number them 1–9.

- a Franklin gives the Moonstone to Rachel.
- b Dr Candy and Franklin argue at dinner.
- c Godfrey asks Rachel to marry him, but she refuses.
- d Franklin and Rachel work together on the door of Rachel's sitting room.
- e Murthwaite warns Franklin and Betteredge that the Moonstone may bring danger.
- f Godfrey Ablewhite and his sisters arrive at the house.
- g The guests go into the garden to watch the Indian dancers.
- h Rachel wears the Moonstone on her dress at the party.
- i Franklin rides to Frizinghall to fetch the diamond.

2 Are these sentences true or false? Tick the boxes.

True **False**

a Penelope thinks that Franklin Blake has fallen in love with Rosanna Spearman.

b Franklin gives up smoking because he wants to please Rachel.

c People give money to Godfrey Ablewhite for his charity work because he is good-looking.

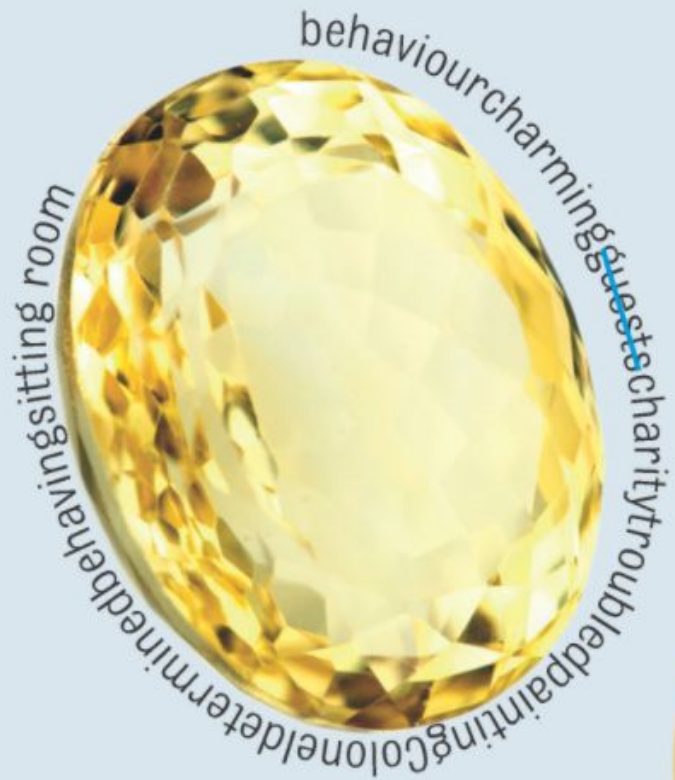
d Lady Verinder is unhappy about her brother's birthday gift for Rachel.

e At the dinner party, Franklin is angry with Dr Candy because he wants to do an experiment with Rachel's diamond.

f The Indian dancers leave the garden when Betteredge speaks to them.

g Rachel isn't worried that the Indian cabinet doesn't have a lock.

Find the words round the diamond to complete Betteredge's diary.



19th June, 1848 *Diary*

It's nearly Rachel's birthday and I have to prepare the rooms for the (a) guests... Godfrey Ablewhite and his sisters are coming. Godfrey is a fine speaker and lots of people give him money for (b) Rachel and Franklin have been (c) the door of her (d) . They make a (e) couple, but they are very different. Rachel is (f) but Franklin never knows what to do. I don't know what to do about Rosanna. She has been (g) very strangely. Lady Verinder is very (h) too, by her strange (i) . I wonder what she will think when she sees (j) Herncastle's gift to Rachel.

GUESS WHAT

What do you think happens in the next chapter? Tick three boxes.

- a** Franklin goes to Frizinghall to fetch the police.
- b** They search Rosanna Spearman's room and find the diamond.
- c** They search Rachel's sitting room but they can't find the diamond.
- d** Rachel helps the police to find her diamond.
- e** Franklin writes to his father to ask him to send a detective from London.
- f** The Indian dancers find the diamond and take it back to India.